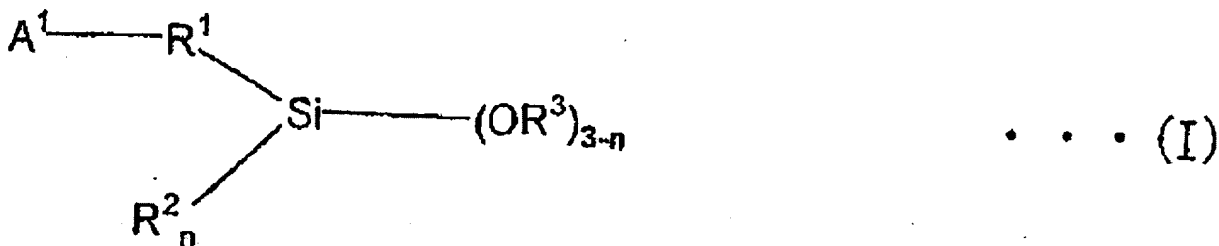


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

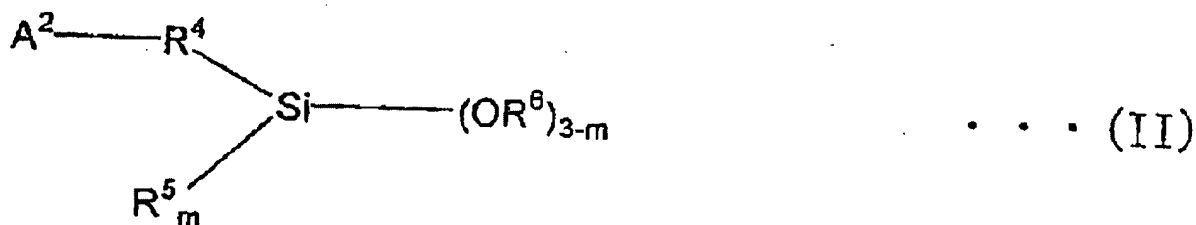
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for producing a modified polymer, comprising modifying a polymer produced by anionic polymerization using an alkaline metal compound and/or an alkaline earth metal compound as a polymerization initiator and having an active site of an organometal type in a molecule by reacting the site thereof with a hydrocarbyloxysilane compound and adding a condensation accelerator to the reaction system in the middle of the above reaction and/or after completion thereof, where in the polymer described above is a polymer obtained by homopolymerizing a conjugated diene compound or copolymerizing a conjugated diene compound with ~~other monomers~~ at least one additional monomer and the hydrocarbyloxysilane compound described above used for the modification is at least one selected from a hydrocarbyloxysilane compound represented by Formula (I) and/or a partial condensation product thereof;



(wherein A¹ represents a monovalent group having at least one functional group selected from (thio)epoxy, (thio)isocyanate, (thio)ketone, (thio)aldehyde, imine, amide, trihydrocarbyl

isocyanurate, (thio)carboxylates, metal salts of (thio)carboxylates, carboxylic anhydrides, carboxylic halides and dihydrocarbyl carbonate; R¹ represents a single bond or a divalent inactive hydrocarbon group; R² and R³ each represent independently a monovalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a monovalent aromatic hydrocarbon group having 6 to 18 carbon atoms; n is an integer of 0 to 2, and when a plurality of OR³ is present, a plurality OR³ may be the same as or different from each other; and an active proton and an onium salt are not contained in the molecule), a hydrocarbyloxysilane compound represented by Formula (II) and/or a partial condensation product thereof;



(wherein A² represents a monovalent group having at least one functional group selected from cyclic tertiary amine, non-cyclic tertiary amine, nitrile, pyridine, sulfide and polysulfide; R⁴ represents a single bond or a divalent inactive hydrocarbon group; R⁵ and R⁶ each represent independently a monovalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a monovalent aromatic hydrocarbon group having 6 to 18 carbon atoms; m is an integer of 0 to 2, and when a plurality of OR⁶ is present, a plurality OR⁶ may be the same as or different from each other; and an active proton and an onium salt are not contained in the molecule), and a hydrocarbyloxysilane compound represented by Formula (III) and/or a partial condensation product thereof;



(wherein R^7 and R^8 each represent independently a monovalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a monovalent aromatic hydrocarbon group having 6 to 18 carbon atoms; p is an integer of 0 to 2, and when a plurality of OR^8 is present, a plurality of OR^8 may be the same as or different from each other; and an active proton and an onium salt are not contained in the molecule).

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): The process for producing a modified polymer as described in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the metal in the active site described above is at least one selected from alkaline metals and alkaline earth metals.

4. (currently amended): The process for producing a modified polymer as described in claim 23, wherein ~~the polymer described above is synthesized by anionic polymerization, and the other~~ at least one additional monomer described above is an aromatic vinyl compound.

5. (original): The process for producing a modified polymer as described in claim 4, wherein the active site described above is present at an end of the polymer, and at least a part thereof stays in an active state.

6. (canceled).

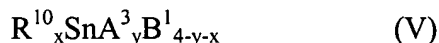
7. (original): The process for producing a modified polymer as described in claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbyloxysilane compound for modification is added to the polymer having an active site of an organometal type in a molecule in a stoichiometric amount or an excess amount thereover based on the above active site to react the above active site with the hydrocarbyloxysilane compound.

8. (previously presented): The process for producing a modified polymer as described in claim 1, wherein the condensation accelerator described above comprises combination of carboxylic acid salt of tin and/or titanium alkoxide with water.

9. (original): The process for producing a modified polymer as described in claim 8, wherein the carboxylic acid salt of tin described above is a tin compound having an oxidation number of 2 represented by the following Formula (IV):

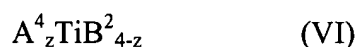


(wherein R^9 is an alkyl group having 2 to 19 carbon atoms) or a tin compound having an oxidation number of 4 represented by the following Formula (V):



(wherein R^{10} is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms; x is an integer of 1 to 3; y is 1 or 2; A^3 is a group selected from a carboxyl group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms, an α,γ -dionyl group having 5 to 20 carbon atoms, a hydrocarbyloxy group having 3 to 20

carbon atoms and a siloxy group tri-substituted with a hydrocarbyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and/or a hydrocarbyloxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and B¹ is a hydroxyl group or halogen), and the titanium alkoxide described above is a titanium compound by the following Formula (VI):



(wherein A⁴ is a group selected from an alkoxy group having 3 to 20 carbon atoms and a siloxy group tri-substituted with an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and/or an alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; B² is an α,γ -dionyl group having 5 to 20 carbon atoms; and z is 2 or 4).

10. (previously presented): The process for producing a modified polymer as described in claim 2, wherein the conjugated diene compound described above is 1,3-butadiene or isoprene.

11. (previously presented): The process for producing a modified polymer as described in claim 4, wherein the aromatic vinyl compound described above is styrene.

12. (previously presented): A modified polymer obtained by the production process as described in claim 1.

13. (original): The modified polymer as described claim 12, having a Mooney viscosity (ML₁₊₄/100°C) of 10 to 150.

14. (original): A rubber composition comprising the modified polymer as described in claim 12 or 13.

15 - 18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented): The rubber composition as described claim 14, comprising 100 parts by weight of (A) a rubber component containing at least 15 % by weight of the modified polymer described above and 10 to 100 parts by weight of (B) an inorganic filler and/or carbon black.

20. (original): The rubber composition as described claim 19, comprising 10 to 100 parts by weight of silica as the inorganic filler described above.

21. (previously presented): A tire using the rubber composition as described in claim 14.